



# **BITS OF GOLD**

## **Montana Talking Book Library**

Regional Library of the National Library Service  
For the Blind and Physically Handicapped  
(NLS/BPH)

**Volume 102, Number 2**

**2002**

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### **NORTHWESTERN ENERGY AWARDS GRANT TO LIBRARY**

On July 12, Fran Galvin from NorthWestern Energy (NWE) presented a \$1500 grant to the Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) to purchase "Talking Book Markers" for loan to patrons. Larry Thompson of the Butte Division of NWE and Howard Skjervem of the Helena Division of NWE also attended. Christie Briggs, MTBL's Regional Librarian received the grant. Jim Daily, a patron of MTBL and inventor of the "Talking Book Marker" was also on hand for the presentation. He found that not only did his invention hold your place on the tape but it also saved energy.

The "Talking Book Marker" was designed to "mark" the spot on an audio book. A patron holds the marker in the palm of his or her hand. If he or she should fall asleep while listening to the audio book, the lever on the marker will stop the tape and "mark" that spot.

### **AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR THE BLIND (AFB) CONDUCTS STUDY ON "LIVABLE COMMUNITIES"**

AFB's research team wants to identify those communities where those who are blind or visually impaired would have the best accessibility and living accommodations. They hope to identify criteria for communities to use as a tool to implement improvements. AFB will provide a list of the most highly rated "Livable Communities" for visually impaired.

As a blind or visually impaired person, where would you choose as the most livable community that meets your needs in the US? Anyone that would like more information or would like to participate in this study, please contact AFB:

CALL: 1-800-232-5463

E-Mail: [livability@afb.net](mailto:livability@afb.net)

Website: [www.afb.org/livability.asp](http://www.afb.org/livability.asp)

**LIBRARY HOURS:** Mon-Fri 8am-5pm**PHONE HOURS:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm**PHONE NUMBERS:** 1-800-332-3400 or 406-444-2064**For patron requests or if you're not sure who to contact, e-mail us at:**[mtbl@state.mt.us](mailto:mtbl@state.mt.us)**MTBL WEBSITE:** <http://www.msl.state.mt.us/tbl>**WEBOPAC WEBSITE:** <http://www.klasweb.msl.state.mt.us>**REGIONAL LIBRARIAN:** Christie Briggs, [cbriggs@state.mt.us](mailto:cbriggs@state.mt.us)**COORDINATOR VOL SVC:** Diane Gunderson, [dgunderson@state.mt.us](mailto:dgunderson@state.mt.us)**CIRCULATION CLERK:** Carolyn Meier, [cameier@state.mt.us](mailto:cameier@state.mt.us)**MACHINE LENDING AGENT:** Lee Madison, [lmadison@state.mt.us](mailto:lmadison@state.mt.us)**READER ADVISORS:** Patrons with last names A-G contact:Moriah Haley, [mhaley@state.mt.us](mailto:mhaley@state.mt.us)

Patrons with last names H-O contact:

Cheryl Christopher, [cchristopher@state.mt.us](mailto:cchristopher@state.mt.us)

Patrons with last names P-Z contact:

Lee Madison, [lmadison@state.mt.us](mailto:lmadison@state.mt.us)**BITS OF GOLD EDITOR:** Cheryl Christopher

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**LIBRARIAN'S LOG: from the desk of Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian**

After you become familiar with the MTBL services, you may be interested in exploring other services that are available. Some of these include:

**Montana Association for the Blind's (MAB) Summer Orientation Program**

MAB sponsors this every summer for one month, starting in mid-June, at the MSU campus in Bozeman. The program is an adjustment and training program designed to help people with failing eyesight acquire the skills and attitudes that will enable them to remain independent and self-reliant. "Students" (those 18 & older) stay in dorm rooms on campus for the entire four weeks. Classes include mobility techniques, coping skills with personal daily living activities, cooking, household tasks, individual and group counseling, woodworking, computers, brailers, and much more. There is no cost to the student. MAB is an organization that supports the independence of our patrons. For an application form,

**CONTACT:** by mail MAB State Office, PO Box 465, Helena, MT 59624 or call 406-442-9411 or e-mail [gailb@mt.net](mailto:gailb@mt.net).

**LIBRARIAN'S LOG (continued from page 2)****Montana Radio Reading Service (MRRS)**

This is a 24-hour, closed circuit radio service providing readings from 15 Montana newspapers from 9am to 4pm and 6:30pm to 9:30pm, Monday through Friday. Local broadcasts include public and social events; engagements, weddings, and birth announcements; obituaries, grocery ads, editorials and opinions. This is a free statewide service for any person who cannot see or handle printed material because of a visual or physical disability.

**CONTACT:** by mail MT Radio Reading Service, PO Box 4126, Missoula, MT 59806 or call 406-721-1998 or 800-942-7323 or e-mail [radread@bigsky.net](mailto:radread@bigsky.net).

**Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D)**

RFB&D is the main resource for educational and reference materials (textbooks) that are not available on tape or disc from other sources. It was originally created to provide textbooks to veterans blinded in World War II. This service enables those with print disabilities to complete their education, advance their career, and gain self-esteem. Different types of membership services are available for various fees.

**CONTACT:** by mail RFB&D, 20 Roszel Road, Princeton, NJ 08540 or call 800-221-4792 or website [www.rfbd.org/](http://www.rfbd.org/) for an application.

**VOTE...VOTE...VOTE...ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 5, 2002**

In collaboration with the Secretary of State's office, we have completed the "2002 Voter Information Pamphlet (VIP). Ask for **MCB 651**. It was recorded at 1-7/8 speed on two sides and contains three tapes. Bob Brown, Secretary of State, included the following "rights as a voter with special needs" in the recorded version of the VIP:

1. You have the right to vote at an accessible polling place. Ask your county election official to assign you to one.
2. You have the right to vote from your vehicle if a disability prevents you from entering a polling place. A friend or relative may ask an election judge to bring a ballot to your car.
3. You have the right to have a ballot delivered to you if you are homebound or in a nursing home.
4. You have the right to use an absentee ballot even if you're capable of voting in person on Election Day. You may request an absentee ballot from your county election official any time from 75 days preceding Election Day until noon the day before.
5. Finally, at your polling place, you have the right to ask an election judge for help marking your ballot if you're unable to read it for any reason.

The audio version of the VIP has a listing of all county election offices, their addresses, contact names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Check it out!

**Your vote DOES make a difference.**

**LIBRARIAN'S LOG (continued from page 3)****Patron Survey Results**

THANK YOU for responding to our annual survey. We appreciate you taking the time. Your comments and concerns are important to us! Here are some survey highlights:

**A. PATRON SERVICE SATISFACTION.**

1. Survey results revealed that of the 90% who responded, 89% of our patrons are satisfied with our services. It is GREAT to know we are doing a good job of serving you!
2. Some patrons expressed not liking their reading preferences, authors, types and number of materials received. I encourage you to contact your Reader Advisor to make changes in these areas. We can increase and decrease the amount of books sent to you as often as you need as well as change your preferences and author likes.
3. The most common patron comment was "waiting too long for bestsellers". We receive between 5 to 9 copies of each bestseller title. Patrons receive these on a first come, first serve basis by being added to a request list. We can make more copies of the title if the request list gets greater than 20 patrons waiting at a time.

**B. PERSONAL COMPUTERS.**

1. Computer Use. Of the 17% who have computers, 6% search our online catalog either through WebOpac or the MTBL website; 2% correspond with their Reader Advisor through e-mail; 2% order books through WebOpac.
2. Magnifiers and Screen Readers. The most common responses were: Smart View, Deck Talk, Scan Jet 5470 C, Textassist, Flipper, JAWS, Magic Zoom Text Extra or Version 7.0 level 2, CCTV, Web TV, Open Book Ruby, large screen, hand held magnifier, Sony audio speakers, Double talk ASAW Program, large computer monitor screen.
3. Patron Software Recommendations. Vocal Eyes, JAWS, EZ Keys, Open Book Ruby, Macintosh, Zoom Text, Duxbury, Braille Blazer, Braille Lite 20, Kurzweil 1000 scanning software.

**C. READING INTERESTS.**

How do you choose what to read next? Here are some patron tips:

1. Topics that arouse your curiosity or you wish to research.
  2. Titles recommended by friends, children, librarians, parents and teachers.
  3. Consider your personal hobbies or recreation interests.
- Our collection titles cover most topics and our staff loves to research them.

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**LIBRARIAN'S LOG (continued from page 4)****Patron Survey Results****D. SUMMER READING PROGRAM.**

1. Forty-eight percent (48%) of our patrons indicated they were not aware that we provide a summer reading program for students age 5-14.
2. Eleven percent (11%) indicated they are interested in an "adult" summer reading program.
3. Since this interest isn't strong enough for us to start an adult summer reading program at this time, we encourage those interested to join a local book club. Have the book club submit a list of book titles to us. We will research the list and find out for you which titles have been recorded.

**E. COMMUNICATION WITH THE MTBL.**

1. Seventy percent (70%) prefer using the telephone.
2. Twenty-six percent (26%) prefer sending "free matter" mail.
3. Four percent (4%) prefer a combination of e-mail, mail, phone and in-person visits.

**MAB'S 2003 CALENDAR'S NOW AVAILABLE**

Calendars are \$3.00 each. Contact your local MAB Chapter to purchase one:

Anaconda.....	406-563-7453	Svend Wind	
Billings.....	406-259-3729	Jim Aldrich	
Bozeman.....	406-586-2276	John DeHaas	
Butte.....	406-494-4140	Dorothy Dunn	
Dillon.....	406-683-6809	Mavis Pawson	
Great Falls.....	406-452-1455	Dick Howse	
Helena.....	406-458-9111	Peggy Barnekoff	
Kalispell.....	406-257-8859	Nancy Buhre or	406-837-3888 Flo Nelson
Lewistown.....	406-538-7151	Ed Durbin	
Livingston.....	406-222-4490	Beth Wicks	
Missoula.....	406-243-4424	Dan Burke	

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**MUSIC BY MAIL**

Recordings for Recovery (R4R) is a music library. Their national headquarters is located in Midland, Michigan. They have over 1200 musical selections; covering classical, country, jazz, rock, nature sounds and more. The loan period for these cassettes is 60 days. Anyone who is an MTBL patron may become a patron of Recordings for Recovery. Memberships are \$10 per individual. To obtain a membership form and a catalog, contact R4R at [www.r4r.org](http://www.r4r.org) or 1-800-798-1192

## **GREEN THUMB IS NOW “EXPERIENCE WORKS”**

The US Department of Labor sponsors this Senior Community Service Employment Program. It formerly was called “Green Thumb”. This program provides employment training to older Americans who wish to rejoin the workforce. While learning new skills or refreshing former ones these citizens provide valuable service to our communities. MTBL is privileged to have two “Experience Works” trainees—Billie Cooper and Quentin Schroetter. Their duties for MTBL include receptionist, clerical support and special projects. We are able to increase service to our patrons with their assistance.

Billie also volunteers for the VFW Auxiliary and the LDS Church in Helena. In her free time, she reads, studies history and genealogy (including her own family), collects angels and calls herself a “rock hound”. She enjoys spending time with her sons and their families.

Quentin has lived in Montana since 1947. He also likes to read and walk. When he is not playing his violin, Quentin enjoys listening to his many classical CD's. Other favorite things he likes to do are attend concerts, movies and plays. He has two things he likes to collect: one is cross pendants and the other is Central European and Bohemian glass.

Thank you Billie and Quentin for your hard work and welcome to MTBL.

## **SUMMER READERS ARE MEDAL WINNERS!**

Webster defined a winner as “one that is successful through praiseworthy ability and hard work; a victor”. Since this is an Olympic year, this year's participants in MTBL's Summer Reading Program—Join the Winner's Circle-Read—had an opportunity to win a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal.

Along with their reading contracts, they could also choose to read one each of several genres (biography, classic, folklore, sports, etc) and a specific total number of titles to earn their medal of choice. We had 70% of those participating who met or exceeded their goals to earn their medal and prizes. Each one of our young patrons are winners. Congratulations!

## **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY**

This year MTBL staff celebrated the volunteers who provide valuable assistance to our library on October 1st at the Elks Lodge #193 in Helena. Awards were presented to those with several years of service--Donna Anders for 20 years, Frank Graham for 10 years. Five-year awards went to Bonnie Anderson, Dorothy Carpenter, Jim Daily, Brittany Eldredge, Sharon Larson, Glen Rasmussen and Helen Williard. Diane Gunderson, new Coordinator of Volunteers, presented to Darlene Lloyd, Cyd Slattery and Gil Gilbertson the Recording Team of the Year award. The Special Appreciation award was presented to Edith (ET) Tanna by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. Herb Blunn was given the Telephone Pioneer award by Darlene Staffeldt, Director of Statewide Library Resources. Karen Strege, State Librarian, presented Kenzie Clark, Alexis Lund and Erin Vashro with their Youth Volunteer awards. All the volunteers received appreciation gifts. Without their help, we would not be able to deliver the level of services we provide.

Terry Dwyer, our keynote speaker for this event, retired in 1988 as the Managing Editor of the Great Falls Tribune. Terry is also a patron of MTBL. With the help of his family and in spite of his loss of eyesight, he has finished his first book. In By Way of Hope: The True Story of Three Women Homesteaders, he talked about his mother, grandmother and aunt's lives on the prairie in the early 20th century.

**“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for anyone else.”**  
--Charles Dickens

## **AFB NARRATORS OF THE YEAR**

The American Federation for the Blind (AFB) on June 3, 2002, announced this year's Alexander Scourby Narrator awards chosen by a nationwide panel of Talking Book readers.

Kimberly Schraf received this year's fiction award for her recording of **RC 50897 Bee Season** by author Myla Goldberg. In the past 14 years, she has recorded over 130 books. The non-fiction award was given to Bob Askey for his reading of **RC 51912 Life is Good** written by George Dawson and Richard Glaubman. Bob has been narrating since 1975 and has recorded almost 800 books. George Holmes recording of **RC 52409 The Broadview Anthology of Victorian Poetry** earned him this year's poetry award. George has recorded over 230 books since 1986. Dale Carter Cooper has been recording for 39 years. She has recorded over 400 titles and is this year's recipient of the lifetime achievement award. Many thanks and congratulations to the narrators!

## **COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

Although it wasn't easy to see Susie Merrin leave after four years, it was good to see her follow a lifelong dream of attending Virginia Theological Seminary. She is doing well and sends her greetings.

As always seems to happen, good people leave, and good people come to fill those shoes, bringing different skills and abilities to our library. That is what happened when we hired Diane Gunderson as the new Coordinator of Volunteers and Recording Program Services. Diane has over 100 volunteers to orient, train, guide, follow-up with and praise. It is vital to have someone who successfully balances these duties, documenting everything as she goes, as well as directing volunteers in their support of our staff. We are pleased to have Diane as a part of our team.

**“Do what you can to show you care about other people, and you will make our world a better place.”**  
**--Rosalynn Carter**

## **MONTANA YOUTH IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

Sierra Lode, a senior from Capital High School in Helena, was selected from 410 applicants to participate in the National Youth Network Leadership Conference for Youth with Disabilities. This conference was held in Washington D.C., July 26th to July 29th. She has had cerebral palsy since she was 19 days old. Sierra uses a powered wheelchair with a head array for mobility and a communication device that allows her to “speak”. With the aid of these assistive devices, she has been able to make many presentations to schools and conferences to promote awareness and understanding of people with disabilities. Thank you for being such a great advocate for the young people of Montana. Congratulations, Sierra.

**“A strong positive attitude will create more miracles than any wonder drug.”**  
**--Patricia Neal**

**“The small choices and decisions we make a hundred times a day add up to determining the kind of world we live in.”**     **--Rabbi Harold S Kushner**



## WHERE DO I FIND ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT?

The following companies provide a wide selection of innovative products designed for individuals visually impaired, deaf, and those with other special needs. Many products are new. To obtain a current catalog, contact them by website or phone.

ANN MORRIS ENTERPRISES, INC.	<a href="http://www.annmorris.com">www.annmorris.com</a>	800-454-3175
ASSISTED ACCESS, INC.	<a href="http://www.assistedaccess.com">www.assistedaccess.com</a>	800-950-9655
INDEPENDENT LIVING AIDS, INC	<a href="http://www.independentliving.com">www.independentliving.com</a>	800-537-2118
L S & S, INC	<a href="http://www.LSOnline.net">www.LSOnline.net</a>	800-468-4789
MAXI AIDS	<a href="http://www.MaxiAids.com">www.MaxiAids.com</a>	800-522-6294

## NATIONAL CAPTIONING INSTITUTE (NCI) LAUNCHES NATIONAL HELP DESK

On July 4th, NCI was able to offer a free service as a resource for answering public inquiries about closed captioning and related media access services including described videos. The generous support of Microsoft Corporation helped make this possible. There are 14 million people who are blind or have low vision and 28 million people who are deaf or hard of hearing that benefit from these services. Consumers can contact the NCI National Help Desk with their questions at NCI's website [www.ncihelpdesk.org](http://www.ncihelpdesk.org), fax 703-917-9878 or phone & TTY 703-917-7686.

## LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL—CENTER FOR EDUCATION

Lighthouse International has published a new booklet, "When Your Partner Becomes Visually Impaired: Helpful Insights and Tips for Coping". It provides practical tips on care and coping for partners and family members of those with impaired vision. The booklet is free and available on audiocassette. Contact Lighthouse International at 800-829-0500 or [www.lighthouse.org](http://www.lighthouse.org).

**"A little Consideration, a little Thought for Others,  
makes all the difference."  
--Eeyore**

**BOOKSHARE.ORG MAKES DIGITAL BOOKS AVAILABLE**

Bookshare.org is a fee for service, audio book vendor. They offer over ten thousand electronic books online to anyone that is blind, dyslexic or has other print disabilities.

Subscribers access and download the electronic books through their computers. A special Victor Reader software is offered members so they can download and read these books in the NISO/DAISY digital book format. Grade 2 digital Braille is the other format offered. Members may download as many books as desired.

To become a Bookshare.org member, you must:

- 1—Register at [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org) by clicking on the “Join” link.
- 2—Submit proof of your disability. As a patron of MTBL, all you need to do is
  - a) e-mail Bookshare ([info@bookshare.org](mailto:info@bookshare.org)) with your MTBL patron name and mailing address. This information is on the mail card of your MTBL books.
  - b) state that you give NLS permission to verify this information.
- 3—Submit payment of \$25.00 (one-time set-up charge) and the annual membership fee of \$50.00.

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480 California Ave, Suite 201, Palo Alto, CA 94306-1609 **Fax:** 650-475-1066  
**E-mail:** [info@bookshare.org](mailto:info@bookshare.org) **Website:** [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org)

**MONTANA MAGAZINES**

Do you enjoy reading articles about conservation, nature, outdoor recreation, wildlife and the West? Then you might want to subscribe to one of the following magazines:

**“MONTANA MAGAZINE OF WESTERN HISTORY” (Adult)**

The articles in this magazine concentrate on the Western United States. They discuss the people, writers and way of life in this part of our vast country. There are also reviews of recently published books about the West. Published 4 times a year.

**“MONTANA OUTDOORS” (Adult)**

Outdoor recreation, people, nature and wildlife are the subject of the articles in this magazine. Published every other month.

**“WOW--WILD OUTDOOR WORLD” (Youth)**

This is one for the young adventurer, conservationist or any one interested in reading about nature or playing in the great outdoors. Published every other month.

If you would like to subscribe to one of these magazines or to receive the magazine catalog, please contact us at 1-800-332-3400 or 442-2064.

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**RECENT TITLES FROM THE MONTANA RECORDING PROGRAM**

- MCB 591** **Forty Years A Forester** by Elers Koch; Narrator-Jim Slack  
This book relates the personal history of Elers Koch as a pioneering forest manager and a firefighter in the early days of the US Forest Service. His memoir gives a colorful account of the political, practical and private struggles of putting together a new agency at the turn of the century and describes the natural world he worked to conserve. Adult.
- MCB 618** **Ten Tough Trips** by William W Bevis; Narrator-Dorothy Harper  
William W Bevis brings together the writing essays of Guthrie, Garcia, Alderson, Linderman, McNickle, Welch, Hugo, Doig, Maclean and Cooper. In these essays, their works are studied for their revelation of key issues of western identity, including the conflict between the mythic west and the real complications and austerities of life in Montana. Adult.
- MCB 626** **The Diary of Mattie Spenser** by Sandra Dallas; Narrator-Colleen Mockler. Sandra Dallas, the author of *The Persian Pickle Club* (MCB 587) and *Buster Midnight's Cafe* (MCB 225), brings us another dramatic and suspenseful story of hardship, friendship and survival. Visible in these pages of Mattie's diary are genuine details of prairie life and the growth of Mattie as a person. Contains some violence. Adult.
- MCB 625** **Great Ice Bear, The Polar Bear and the Eskimo** by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent; Narrator-Jean Smith. Dorothy Hinshaw Patent explains the polar bear's life cycle and day-to-day existence in the wild, its present imperiled status and its special relationship with humans throughout history. Grades 2-4 and older.

**Do you have a favorite MCB? Please let us know—call us at 1-800-332-3400 or 444-2064—so we can share it with other patrons.**

**PATRON PICKS**

- RC 39963 **Legacy: Journeys of the Stranger** by Al Lacy  
RC 41334 **Shared Values for a Troubled World** by Rushworth M Kidder  
RC 46619 **The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle** by Don L Wulffson  
RC 52275 **John Adams** by David McCullough  
RC 50090 **Rich Dad, Poor Dad** by Robert T Kiyosaki

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**Montana Talking Book Library  
1515 East Sixth Avenue  
PO Box 201800  
Helena, MT 59620-1800**

**Free Matter  
for the Blind**

**Address Service Requested**

**This newsletter is available on cassette, e-mail and large print upon request or  
visit our website: <http://www.msl.state.mt.us/tbl>**

**THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED**

<b>November 5, 2002</b>	<b>Election Day</b>
<b>November 11, 2002</b>	<b>Veteran's Day</b>
<b>November 28, 2002</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>
<b>December 25, 2002</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>January 1, 2003</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>
<b>January 20, 2003</b>	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr Day</b>

**REMEMBER**

**VOTE...VOTE...VOTE      November 5th**

**Peace will come wherever it is sincerely invited.  
Love will overflow every sanctuary given it.  
Truth will grow where the fertilizer that nourishes it is also truth.  
--Alice Walker**